ANNUAL REPORT
2007-2008
From the Director

It is a privilege to present IBPI’s first annual report. Since we were formally launched as an organization in July 2007, we have solidified our organizational structure, developed a mission and strategic plan to guide our work, expanded our funding base, established a web site for information-sharing, conducted six professional development workshops, completed several research projects and awarded three graduate student scholarships. We are excited about our progress to date and look forward to an even more productive year ahead as we expand our research and educational programs. To capitalize on this momentum and continue to grow, IBPI requires a stable and ongoing funding base. Individuals and organizations can support IBPI’s work to advance knowledge of walking and bicycling by contributing to our tax-deductible foundation fund or by sponsoring a scholarship to help attract students to the profession. I hope you will join me in helping IBPI to advance research and education in bicycle and pedestrian travel!

Lynn Weigand, Ph.D.

ORGANIZATION AND FUNDING

IBPI now has a director and office administrator, housed in the Center for Transportation Studies at Portland State University, to manage program activities. Our board of advisors was appointed last fall to support IBPI’s mission and provide guidance on organizational direction and priorities. As part of our mission to work across sectors on bicycle and pedestrian issues, the board members represent public, private, non-profit, and academic interests. Since IBPI was formed, the board has formalized our organizational direction with a mission statement and developed a strategic plan that provides focus and priorities to our work. Finally, we have diversified and expanded our funding base. Current support, including grants, project funding, and sponsorships, comes from State University, the Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium (OTREC), the Cycle Oregon Foundation, the Portland Office of Transportation, Alta Planning + Design, and revenue generated by our professional development courses.

IBPI STAFF

Lynn Weigand is IBPI’s founding director. She holds a Ph.D. in Urban Studies from Portland State University and has more than 20 years experience in community and transportation planning in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

Ryan Gratzer is IBPI’s program administrator. He’s an active bicyclist, with a bachelor’s in sociology from UC Santa Barbara, and has experience working in libraries, journalism, and mental health. He is currently taking classes in the Education department at PSU.
One of IBPI’s main priorities is forwarding a proactive research agenda that will provide data to policy makers and practitioners to support walking and bicycling infrastructure, planning, education, and evaluation. We have produced white papers on several relevant topics to inform our research agenda while pursuing partners and funding to carry out applied research projects.

White Papers
IBPI has completed four white papers focusing on bicycle and pedestrian-related topics to summarize research, identify gaps, and describe how research findings can be applied in practice. The papers address four innovative and relevant topics: the economic impacts of bicycling; the effectiveness of Safe Routes to School programs; the mental health benefits of walking and cycling; and the effectiveness of intersection safety treatments for bicyclists. The content and conclusions provide useful insights into the state of knowledge in these four areas, direction for both research and practice in the field, and guidance to IBPI’s future projects. Each paper was peer reviewed by scholars and practitioners specializing in these topics. Funding for the research was provided by the Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium (OTREC).

Bike Box Evaluation
The City of Portland’s Office of Transportation recently installed new pavement markings called “bike boxes” at 14 intersections to improve bicyclist visibility and safety. IBPI is working with city staff to evaluate the effectiveness of the bike boxes and disseminate the results to academics and practitioners. This type of research promotes the use of new and innovative treatments to promote bicycle and pedestrian travel and to enhance safety.

Safe Routes to School Evaluation
IBPI is helping communities develop and evaluate programs to encourage walking and cycling by people of all ages for both transportation and recreation. We are currently working with the City of Portland to help them evaluate their Safe Routes to School program, which encourages active transportation to and from school.

Understanding and Measuring Bicycle Behavior (aka the “Bike GPS Project”)
Dr. Jennifer Dill is leading a project to understand how the physical environment and particularly the provision of bicycle infrastructure (lanes, paths, and boulevards) influences whether and where people bicycle. The first phase of the project included a random survey of Portland area adults. The second phase used global positioning system (GPS) technology to record where a sample of 164 adults in the region rode their bicycles. Data analysis is underway, and preliminary conclusions indicate that well-connected street networks appear to be important, both for minimizing travel distances and for allowing an efficient network of low-traffic streets and bicycle boulevards. Dr. Dill and Dr. John Gliebe are now working with Metro to use the data to improve how their travel demand model addresses bicycle travel. The project was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, OTREC, and Metro.

INFORMATION-SHARING
IBPI’s web site is a key resource for disseminating information on research and educational opportunities for students and professionals. It features postings on professional development workshops and university courses for practitioners and students, upcoming Transportation Seminars, and other events of interest to the bicycle and pedestrian communities. Web development was supported by OTREC and the College of Urban and Public Affairs.

New Resource for Bicycle and Pedestrian Research
A new library resource, Current American and International Monographs on Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation, is now available on-line through IBPI’s web site and Portland State University’s Millar Library. This guide provides a list of bicycle and pedestrian transportation resources available at the Portland State University library or through the regional loan service. The guide was researched and written by Nancy Peate, MLS, and will be updated annually. This research was initiated and supervised by Rose Jackson, Reference Librarian to the College of Urban and Public Affairs at Portland State University, in conjunction with IBPI’s Director, Lynn Weigand, Ph.D.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Workshops and Seminars
IBPI’s professional development workshops fill a critical need by providing practical training to current professionals who plan, design, and build pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The combination of classroom, field, and project experience provide useful applications that professionals can use on the job.
Since August 2007, we have offered six courses attracting 154 participants (including 50 from outside Oregon), including planners, designers, landscape architects, engineers, advocates, and students. Courses topics included: Integrating On- and Off-Street Bikeways; Trail Design; Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility (offered in Eugene and Portland); Engineering Intersections for Bicyclists and Pedestrians; and Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Design and Planning (week-long course)

We already have several workshops planned for 2009, including a course on trail design outside the Portland region that focuses on suburban and rural trail planning, a new course on neighborhood greenways being developed in partnership with Alta Planning + Design, and the second annual week-long course of pedestrian and bicycle planning and design. In addition, we are working with several public agencies around the northwest to take these workshops on the road.
NATIONAL SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL CONFERENCE

IBPI is a host partner with the Bicycle Transportation Alliance to host the National Safe Routes to School Conference in Portland next August. The event will build on the enthusiasm generated at the first conference in 2007 and will showcase the region’s success in promoting active travel to school through sessions, tours, and mobile workshops.

EDUCATION & CURRICULUM

Curriculum Research and Development

IBPI has embarked on a project to enhance and expand opportunities to study bicycle and pedestrian transportation through a curriculum research and application project funded by the Oregon Transportation Research and Education Consortium (OTREC). The project includes a national survey, conducted in the summer of 2008, of planning and engineering faculty to obtain information about existing courses that include content related to planning, design, and engineering for bicycles and pedestrians. The project also includes the development of new course modules that can be integrated into existing planning and engineering curricula. Dr. Jennifer Dill, at Portland State University, and Dr. Karen Dixon, at Oregon State University, have developed planning and engineering modules, respectively. The final course modules, reading materials, and projects will be available on the IBPI web site to share with interested faculty from other universities. In August 2008, Lynn Weigand, Ph.D., presented preliminary data from the survey at the Pro Walk Pro Bike conference in Seattle.

Course Expansion and Development

With support from OTREC, IBPI is expanding the current course on bicycle and pedestrian planning within the Nohad A. Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning, and developing a new course on trail planning and research in the University Studies Capstone program. The course expansion will provide a two-credit lab for students who want to gain practical experience in bicycle and pedestrian planning, and will complement the current three-credit course.

Student Involvement

IBPI’s new projects are providing new opportunities to engage students and provide them with research and work experience on bicycle and pedestrian projects. This year, Steve White, a second-year graduate student in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program specializing in transportation, are working with IBPI as graduate research assistants.

SCHOLARSHIPS

One of IBPI’s goals is to encourage students to pursue bicycle and pedestrian transportation and foster their knowledge and skill development. Generous support for two IBPI scholarships are providing critical support to attract promising students who want to pursue careers related to bicycle and pedestrian travel.

The Rex Burkholder and Lydia Rich Scholarship was established in 2007 with a three-year commitment to support a graduate student who intends to be active in developing a future where bicyclists and pedestrians play a major role in the livability of urban areas.

Dana Dickman, the first recipient of this award, holds an undergraduate degree in Natural Resources Planning and worked for six years as a planner for Redwood Community Action Agency, focusing on community-based non-motorized transportation. Her research at PSU is examining whether proximity to pedestrian, bicycle, and possibly transit facilities, reduces household income expenditure on transportation.

The Alta Planning + Design Scholarship and internship supports a graduate student who is highly motivated to focus their studies at Portland State University on bicycling and walking as mainstream forms of transportation.

Lindsay Walker is the 2008 recipient of this award. She holds an undergraduate degree in Environmental Science from Humboldt State University and has worked as a Transportation Planner and a District Bicycle Coordinator with the California Department of Transportation, District 1. Lindsay will be focusing her studies at PSU on non-motorized transportation planning.

Steve is working with IBPI and the Portland Office of Transportation to evaluate Portland’s Safer Routes to School Program. Steve cycles for recreation, exercise, and transportation, and is teaching his two children, ages three and five, how to ride. He is interested in the coordination of transportation, land use decisions to reduce auto-dependence, and programs that get more people on bikes.